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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	SMITH et al.	Examiner:	Pryor, A.
Serial No.:	09/744,129	Group Art Unit:	1616
Filed:	06/21/2001	Docket No.:	9555.109USWO
Title:	COMPOSITION FOR ACCELERATING SEED GERMINATION AND PLANT GROWTH		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 4-19-02.

By: Kay Fahland
Name: Kay Fahland

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of November 20, 2002 please enter this amendment and consider the following remarks for the patent application identified above.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 17 and 26 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A method for enhancing plant crop seed germination, seedling emergence or growth of a plant crop comprising the steps of:
- ✓ providing a composition that comprises an effective amount of at least one lipo chitooligosaccharide (LCO) and an agriculturally suitable carrier; and
 - ✓ applying the composition in the vicinity of a seed, root or plant in an effective amount for enhancing seed germination, seedling emergence or growth of said plant in comparison to an untreated plant.